

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE,—EIGHTH MEETING, HELD AT NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE.

Section of Zoology and Botany.

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The following communications were laid before the Section; some of which, or authentic abstracts, will be given in our present and succeeding Numbers.

Aug. 20.—On the Botany of the Channel Islands; by C. C. Babington, Esq.—On the Formation of Angular Lines on the Shells of certain Mollusca; by J. E. Gray, Esq.

Aug. 21.—On the Wild Cattle of Chillingham Park; by J. Hindmarsh, Esq., of Alnwick.—On the Production of Vanilla in Europe; by Prof. Morren, of Liège.—On some new and rare Species of British Fish; by Dr. Parnell.—On the *Falco Islandicus* of authors; by Mr. J. Hancock.—On the *Canis jubatus*; by Col. Sykes.—On some Vegetable Monstrosities; by the Rev. W. Hincks.

Aug. 22.—On the Gemmiferous Bodies and Vermiform Filaments of *Actinia*; by Mr. T. P. Teale.—Account of an Inosculation in two Trees; by Mr. Wallace.—On a new Species of *Ascaris*; by Dr. Bellingham.—On the Genera *Pinus* and *Abies*; by Captain J. E. Cook, R.N.—On the modern Classification of Insects; by the Rev. F. W. Hope.—On the *Ardea alba*; by A. Strickland, Esq.

Aug. 23.—A verbal report on Infusoria was made by Prof. Ehrenberg*.—Verbal communications were also made by Dr. Parnell on *Clupea alba* (White Bait) from the Frith of Forth; by the Rev. Mr. Jenyns on some species of *Sorex*; and by Mr. Gray on the Boring of *Pholades*.—Report on the present state of our knowledge of the *Salmonide* of Scotland; by Sir W. Jardine.—On the Toes of the African Ostrich, and the number of Phalanges in the Toes of other

* The substance of this report has been communicated to us by M. Ehrenberg, and will be found at p. 121. of our present Number.—ED.

Birds; by Mr. Allis, of York.—On a hybrid *Tetrao*, given by Temminck as a distinct species; by Dr. Charlton.

Aug. 25.—On the *Sternoptixineæ*, a family of Osseous Fish; by Dr. Handyside.—On the distribution of the Terrestrial Pulmonifera; by E. Forbes.—On the annual appearance of the *Lestris* tribe on the coast of Durham; by E. Backhouse, Esq.—A verbal report on the Marsupiata by Mr. R. Owen.—On a new species of Smelt, *Osmerus hebridicus*; by Mr. Yarrell.—On the application of Botany to Agriculture; by Mr. Jerdan.—On noxious Insects occurring in the year 1838; by the Rev. F. W. Hope.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ORCHIDACEÆ.

The public journals have not been wanting in paying due honour to the two most magnificent works which have ever appeared upon the subject of botany, we mean the *Orchidaceæ* of Mexico and Guatimala, by James Bateman, Esq., and the *Sertum Orchidaceum* of Prof. Lindley. It would be invidious to attempt to draw a comparison between them. Each is alike honourable, whether as regards the scientific or pictorial department: each treats of the same splendid, eminently splendid, family of plants; yet there is no rivalry; and so carefully is the introduction of the same species avoided in both, that one work may be considered a continuation of the other, and we trust they will meet with that encouragement to which their merits entitle them. Sure we are that neither the Botanical Magazine nor the Botanical Register combined can record the numerous species of this favourite group of vegetables so rapidly as to keep pace with their introduction. Mr. Gardner from Brazil alone has sent home to our collections many new species, and we have at this moment received from Mr. Moss, of Otterspool, Liverpool, a *Cattleya*, which in size, colour and fragrance may be deemed the most remarkable of this family. Its flowers are $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches across in one direction, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in another, 24 inches in circumference! This will very shortly be figured in the Botanical Magazine.

COLLECTIONS OF SCOTTISH AND AMERICAN MOSSES.

Such arrangements have been made with the family of the late excellent botanist and traveller Mr. Drummond, that the extensive collection of mosses made by him in Scotland, and more particularly in British North America and in the southern United States, will be